

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicant seeks reconsideration of the application. In this response, Claims 16 and 20 are canceled, Claims 1, 10 and 19 are amended and no claims are added. Accordingly, Claims 1, 4-10, 13-15 and 17-19 and 21-29 are pending.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner objects to Claims 15, 16 and 20-25 as dependent upon the rejected base claim. The Examiner acknowledges that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant amends independent Claim 10 to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claim 16, which has been canceled. It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent Claim 10 and its dependent Claims 13-15, 17 and 18 are allowable. Additionally, Applicant amends independent Claim 19 to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claim 20, which has been canceled. It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent Claim 19 and its dependent Claims 21-25, 28 and 29 are allowable. Furthermore, Claim 1 is a method claim which limitations substantially correspond to the limitations of amended Claim 10, and is therefore allowable. It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 and its dependent Claims 4-9, 26 and 27 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

Dated: June 3, 2004

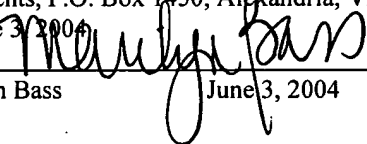
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Marilyn Bass

June 3, 2004